

SOUTH DAKOTA FARMS, LAND IN FARMS, AND LIVESTOCK FARMS

News Release

February 22, 2002

FARM NUMBERS UNCHANGED FROM 2000

SIOUX FALLS, February 22, 2002 – The number of farms in South Dakota in 2001 is estimated at 32,500, unchanged from the previous five years, according to USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This is down 7 percent from 35,000 farms ten years ago and down 14 percent from 38,000 farms twenty years ago. Total land in farms, at 44 million acres, is unchanged from one year ago, as is the average farm size of 1,354 acres.

By sales class, there were 7,000 farms in the \$1,000-\$9,999 size group, unchanged from 2000; 14,500 farms in the \$10,000-\$99,999 size group, down 5 percent from one year earlier; and 11,000 farms in the \$100,000 and over sales group, up 8 percent from 2000.

The number of farms and ranches raising livestock during 2001 totaled: 19,500 raising cattle, 17,000 raising beef cows, 1,300 dairy operations, 1,600 hog operations, and 2,300 operations raising sheep.

For more information contact

Carter Anderson or Steve Noyes at

605-330-4235

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